

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

January 21, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
College of Agriculture  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

I was delighted to have your letter of January 4 and particularly to hear that you are enthusiastic about collaborating on the book. This pleases me very much indeed and I am looking forward to working out the details with you. As you suggest, we may have some time to discuss this subject at the cancer meetings in March. Let's plan definitely to do so.

I'm naturally much interested in your comments on symbiosis. However, I know of no follow up work done by Wichterman concerning the chlorellae of *Paramecium bursaria*.

Helen Byers has ask me to write you a note in regard to her application for a Fellowship to work with you. Helen is a serious student who seems to have a great deal of enthusiasm and energy but unfortunately the impression she has given here, both to Dr. Muller and to me, is that her capacities can not keep up with her enthusiasm. She has not done very well in her course work here, managing to get B's, C's and sometimes D's. However, it should be said that she is working under severe financial difficulties and has had to spend a considerable amount of her time in raising enough money to live. You may find that if she has some financial backing she can get to work in earnest and do much better than she has done here. I don't want to recommend her too highly and give you false hopes because I have really seen very little evidence that she has a soundly critical mind, although she is a glib talker and gives a very good first impression. So long as you do not commit yourself to more than one year of fellowship support I do not think you would have anything to lose and you may find she blossoms forth well under your tutelage as I gather Skaar is doing now. Of course Skaar made excellent records in his course work here and there was reason to believe he had the ability if he could find someone who could bring it out in him. I gather that you have done or are doing this and I am delighted to hear that he is coming along satisfactorily.

With very best regards to you and Esther,

Cordially yours,

TMS/jb

T. M. Sonneborn

*P.S. - I'm sending a note to Freeman for both of us. Skaar submitted a revision of his dissertation which is really good, - immeasurably better than the last one. Someday I'd be curious to hear your impressions of him and your estimate of the extent to which this revision was catalyzed by his new environment.*